

## RINGING AND MIGRATION AT NGULIA, TSAVO, AUTUMN 1984

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Twenty-five nights were spent at Ngulia Safari Lodge from 26 October to 22 December but suitable weather allowed catching to be attempted on only 18 of them. The total number of Palaearctic migrants ringed (3489) was low for the amount of netting effort expended but reflects the frequent lack of mist this year.

Tsavo West had some rain in mid October which led to green grass and bush in places at the time of the first visit from 26 to 28 of the month. Few migrants were seen, however, even when mist descended to 30 m from ground level for a few minutes on the night of 26th/27th.

The main period of cover was from 16 November to 3 December but good falls of birds occurred on only four nights (19th, 21st, 23rd and 29th - ringing totals 510, 450, 609 and 765 respectively). Marsh Warblers (scientific names given in Table 1) predominated while numbers of Sprossers and Whitethroats, and especially River Warblers, were well below average (see Table 1). A Great Snipe caught after midnight on 21st was new for Ngulia and an Icterine Warbler on 29th was only the third.

The five nights of cover from 18 to 22 December started with two birdless ones. Mist on 20th and 21st was thick but few birds were seen or caught, suggesting a slackening off of overhead movement and/or inadequate penetration of the mist by the lights. The final night, 22nd was misty throughout with a number of heavy showers. Nearly 300 migrants were caught including two exceptionally late Olive-tree Warblers, a Redstart (third ever) and a Lesser Moorhen *Gallinula angulata* (second).

Rather few ringing recoveries are reported these days so it was heartening to have notification of an adult Marsh Warbler, ringed at night on 23 November this season recovered on northward passage at Salalah in southern Oman on 7 May 1985.

Table 1 continued

Cuckoo *C. poliocephalus* 1, Scops Owl *Otus scops* 2, Sand Martin *Riparia riparia* 6, Golden Oriole *Oriolus oriolus* 13, Pied Wheatear *Oenanthe pleschanka* 36, Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra* 2, Savi's Warbler *Locustella luscinioides* 1, Wood Warbler *Phylloscopus sibilatrix* 2, Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla* 48, Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis* 19 and Yellow Wag-tail *Motacilla flava* 3.

From December 1969 a total of 67 707 Palaearctic birds of 45 species has been ringed at Ngulia during southward migration.

TABLE 1

Numbers of Palaearctic night migrants ringed at Ngulia  
Safari Lodge between October and February in the years  
1969-1985\*

Species	1984/5* total	%**	Total 1969 1985*
Great Snipe <i>Gallinago media</i>	1	-	1
Eurasian Nightjar <i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>	12	63	292
Eurasian Roller <i>Coracias garrulus</i>	1	35	37
Eurasian Swallow <i>Hirundo rustica</i>	5	48	131
Rufous Bush Chat <i>Cercotrichas galactotes</i>	25	41	760
Iranian <i>Irania gutturalis</i>	30	30	1256
Sprosser <i>Luscinia luscinia</i>	410	39	13005
Nightingale <i>L. megarhynchos</i>	23	60	487
Rock Thrush <i>Monticola saxatilis</i>	9	108	109
Isabelline Wheatear <i>Oenanthe isabellina</i>	3	53	71
Northern Wheatear <i>O. oenanthe</i>	4	52	96
Redstart <i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>	1	-	3
Great Reed Warbler <i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i>	3	-	29
Basra Reed Warbler <i>A. griseldis</i>	35	83	544
Marsh Warbler <i>A. palustris</i>	1837	103	23410
Sedge Warbler <i>A. schoenobaenus</i>	13	240	78
Reed Warbler <i>A. scirpaceus</i>	4	80	65
Icterine Warbler <i>Hippolais icterina</i>	1	-	3
Upcher's Warbler <i>H. languida</i>	3	14	272
Olive-tree Warbler <i>H. olivetorum</i>	24	103	305
Olivaceous Warbler <i>H. pallida</i>	8	30	331
River Warbler <i>Locustella fluviatilis</i>	70	35	2517
Willow Warbler <i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	38	37	1271
Garden Warbler <i>Sylvia borin</i>	21	58	462
Whitethroat <i>S. communis</i>	804	52	19452
Barred Warbler <i>S. nisoria</i>	20	51	497
Spotted Flycatcher <i>Muscicapa striata</i>	30	59	643
Red-backed Shrike <i>Lanius collurio</i>	27	43	781
Red-tailed Shrike <i>L. isabellinus</i>	27	53	642
Hybrid <i>L. collurio</i> x <i>L. isabellinus</i>	1	-	9
Number of species	29		29
Total	3489		67559

\* 1984/85 season - no ringing in January or February 1985.

\*\* The autumn 1984 total expressed as a percentage of the mean of the years 1972/73 to 1983/84 for each species.

Totals of Palaearctic species ringed in previous autumn seasons but not in 1984/85 are as follows: Little Bittern *Ixobrychus m. minutus* 4, Eleonora's Falcon *Falco eleonora* 1, Corncrake *Crex crex* 7, Spotted Crake *Porzana porzana* 1, Eurasian Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus* 2, Lesser

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